

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
HILDA L. SOLIS

APRIL 20, 2021

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE

Los Angeles County is home to the greatest number of Armenians outside of Armenia. Each year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors commemorates the Armenian Genocide, which began on April 24, 1915 and resulted in the tragic loss of 1.5 million innocent lives.

Despite overwhelming evidence, the Turkish government still denies the occurrence of an Armenian Genocide. Many international and American leaders and elected officials from local, state and federal governments have condemned the atrocities committed against the Armenians and are calling on Turkey to acknowledge the Genocide and its participation in it.

To this day, the Armenian people are still the targets of hateful attacks. In September 2020, Azerbaijan, with support from Turkey, launched a military assault on the Nagorno-Karabakh region, also known as Artsakh. This unprovoked attack resulted in the deaths of many ethnic Armenian residents as well as the displacement of thousands of Artsakh residents.

Each year, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors proudly hosts community members, religious leaders, elected officials, and organizations at a Tuesday board meeting to solemnly honor the memory of those who lost their lives because of the Armenian Genocide. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, board presentations have been canceled until further notice. However, the pandemic will not deter our Board from recognizing this heartbreaking and historical event.

A series of separate but related actions have been taken by this Board and prior Boards to raise awareness and bring healing to the Armenian people. In 2005, then-Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich introduced a motion, unanimously approved by the Board, to support House Resolution 316, which “sought to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity relating to human rights and ethnic cleansing associated with the Armenian Genocide.”

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MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
KUEHL	_____
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BARGER	_____
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In 2015, the Board unanimously adopted a motion authored by Supervisors Michael Antonovich and Hilda Solis to send a letter to President Barack Obama asking him to petition the Turkish Government to recognize the Armenian Genocide. In 2017, the Board unanimously adopted a motion authored by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Hilda Solis asking President Trump to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. To honor the memories of those who suffered and lost their lives, it is appropriate for this Board to take similar action now.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Recognize April 24, 2021 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Los Angeles County.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a five-signature letter to President Joe Biden urging him to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

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KB: jmb